

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the indication that the drawings are acceptable, for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement by return of the Form PTO-1449, and for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendments claims 2 and 6 will have been amended and claim 1 will have been canceled. Claims 2-13 are currently pending, and claims 5 and 8-13 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

On page 2 of the Official Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 07-323403. Applicants note that claim 1 has been cancelled, and submit that this rejection is now moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

On page 3 of the Official Action, claims 1-4, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by KULLMAN (U.S. Patent No. 5,477,763).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Applicants note that claim 1 has been cancelled, and that claims 2 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form by incorporating the subject matter of claim 1 therein.

Applicants note that claims 2 and 6 recite, inter alia, “left and right set teeth, which are set in a lateral direction, as viewed in a cutting direction of the cutting teeth; wherein each of the left and right set teeth is a dovetail shaped set tooth having a tooth tip which is gradually enlarged in the lateral direction”.

Applicants submit that KULLMAN lacks any disclosure of *left and right set teeth* which are *dovetail shaped with tips gradually enlarged in a lateral direction*. Applicants particularly note that such set teeth are not disclosed at column 4, lines 3-5 of KULLMAN. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner point out what portion of the disclosure of KULLMAN he intends to rely upon for such recited features if he intends to maintain this rejection.

Applicants note that claim 2 recites, inter alia, “a straight tooth, which is not set in the lateral direction, as viewed in the cutting direction of the cutting teeth; wherein the straight tooth including a dovetail shaped straight tooth having a tooth tip which is gradually enlarged in the lateral direction.”

Applicants submit that KULLMAN lacks any disclosure of a *dovetail shaped straight tooth* having a *tooth tip which is gradually enlarged in the lateral direction*. Applicants particularly note that tooth 2 of KULLMAN is not such a straight tooth. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner point out what portion of the disclosure of KULLMAN he intends to rely upon for such recited features if he intends to maintain this rejection.

Applicants note that claim 6 recites, inter alia, “a straight tooth, which is not set in the lateral direction, as viewed in the cutting direction of the cutting teeth; wherein the straight tooth including a bevel-dovetail shaped straight tooth having inclinations at both of left and right ends of a tooth tip which is gradually enlarged in the lateral direction.”

Applicants submit that KULLMAN lacks any disclosure of a *bevel-dovetail shaped straight tooth having inclinations at both of left and right ends of a tooth tip which is gradually enlarged in the lateral direction*. Applicants particularly note that Fig. 3 of KULLMAN does not disclose such a straight tooth. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner point out what portion of the disclosure of KULLMAN he intends to rely upon for such recited features if he intends to maintain this rejection.

Applicants further submit that the dependent claims, which are at least patentable due to their respective dependencies on claims 2 and 6, for the above-noted reasons, recite additional features of the invention and are also separately patentable over the prior art of record. For example, Applicants submit that KULLMAN lacks any disclosure of a height of each of the left and right set teeth being smaller than or substantially equal to that of the straight tooth (claims 3 and 7) or an inclination being formed at an inside corner on a tooth tip side of each of the left and right set teeth (claim 4). Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner point out what portion of the disclosure of KULLMAN he intends to rely upon for such recited features if he intends to maintain this rejection.

• P27700.A04

Accordingly, Applicants submit that this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is improper at least for each, and certainly for all, of the above-noted reasons. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and an early indication of the allowance of all of the pending claims.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims that have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Yuji NAGANO et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Daniel B. Moon
Reg. No. 48,214

March 6, 2007
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191